

REMARKS

1. Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kuriyama (US 2001/0024141 A1) for reasons of record.
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2. Claims 4, 5, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35. U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuriyama for reasons of record.

RESPONSE

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Regarding claims 1-7:

From MPEP 2111.03:

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“The transitional phrase ‘consisting essentially of’ limits the scope of a claim to the specified materials or steps ‘and those that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristic(s)’ of the claimed invention.”

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Claim 1 recites the transitional phrase “consisting essentially of” to distinguish the present invention from the prior art. MPEP 2111.03 confirms that “consisting essentially of” has a different interpretation than “comprising”. The applicant contends that the transitional phrase “consisting essentially of” of claim 1 was not suitably considered by the examiner, since the examiner does not mention anything regarding this. Specifically, in the rejection to claims 1-3, 6-9, 12 and 13 the examiner writes “Regarding claims 1 and 8, kurlyama (Fig.11) discloses an amplifier circuit comprising a plurality of transistors...” The applicant has no way of knowing whether the examiner’s use of the word “comprising” here means that the examiner has interpreted “consisting essentially of” to mean “comprising”, or whether it is simply a typo.

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From applicant’s paragraph [0031], two of the stated novel characteristics of the

invention are as follows:

5 "the present invention power amplifier provides a capacitor that is distributed to a plurality of bases of heterojunction bipolar transistors."

10 "the layout of the present invention power amplifier integrated circuit offers improved thermal characteristics. The power amplifier circuit according to the present invention is more efficient than the prior art, and can reduce cost and fabrication time."

These are achieved by the device recited in applicant's claim 1. The applicant argues that the four capacitors C_i of Fig.11 of Kuriyama materially affect one or more of these novel characteristics.

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For instance, the capacitors C_i of Kuriyama's Fig.11 are not distributed to a plurality of bases of transistors, but rather transistors Q1-Q3 are each supplied with a capacitor C_i and a resistor R_c . This can result in an inefficient layout on a semiconductor. Moreover, difficulties in making capacitors C_i all have the same capacitance are overcome by the applicant's invention as recited in claim 1. As such, Kuriyama's plurality of capacitors C_i materially affect one or more of the basic and novel characteristics of the applicant's invention.

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25 In addition, it should be mentioned that Fig.11 of cited art Kuriyama is substantially the same as applicant's admitted prior art of Fig.2 (from Pratt in US 5,629,648), which has disadvantages described in detail in paragraphs [0008] and [0009].

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30 Reconsideration of claims 1-7 is respectfully requested in view of the above argument. Claims 2-7 depend on claim 1 and should be allowed if claim 1 is found allowable.

Regarding claims 8-13:

Claims 8 and 11-13 are amended to recite "resistors" rather than "ballast resistors" to reflect what the applicant believes to be the proper scope of these claims.

5 Such amendment is not made to overcome the cited art.

Moreover, claim 8 is amended to recite "the capacitor evenly couples the RF input signal to the more than one of the plurality of bases." Fig.11 of Kuriyama discloses transistors Q1-Q4 each having its corresponding capacitor Ci. Take the
10 uppermost capacitor Ci for example, the fourth terminal of the capacitor Ci directly connects to the base of transistor Q1, indirectly connects to the base of transistor Q2 via two resistors Rc and Rc, indirectly connects to the base of transistor Q3 via two resistors Rc and Rc, and indirectly connects to the transistor Q4 via two resistors Rc and Rc. Therefore the uppermost capacitor Ci cannot evenly couple the RF input
15 signal to the transistors Q1-Q4. The same description also applies to the other capacitors Ci. Briefly summarized, in Kuriyama none of the capacitors Ci is connected to the transistors Q1-Q4 so that the capacitor is capable of evenly coupling the RF input signal to the transistors Q1-Q4. Since Kuriyama does not teach or suggest such feature, the applicant believes the amended claim 8 is patentable over Kuriyama.

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Reconsideration of claims 8-13 is respectfully requested. Claims 9-13 depend on claim 8 and should be allowed if claim 8 is found allowable.

Regarding claim 14-15:

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Claim 14 is introduced to recite that the capacitor is disposed on the substrate such that it is surrounded by the pluralities of transistors and resistors. These limitations introduce no new matter and are fully supported by Fig.4, for instance.

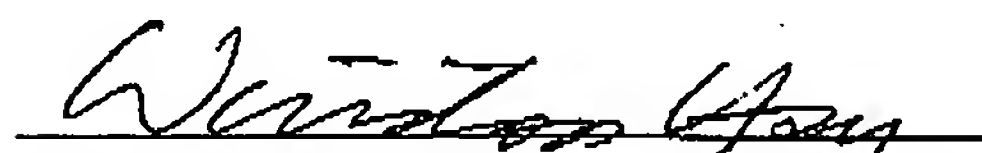
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The applicant asserts that reciting the capacitor being surrounded by the pluralities of transistors and resistors serves to emphasize the advantageous layout characteristic of the invention and distinguish it from the prior art.

Consideration of claim 14 is respectfully requested in view of the above. Claim 15 depends on claim 14, and should be allowed if claim 14 is found allowable.

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Sincerely,



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